



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

APR 23 2001

Honorable Toshitsugu Saito
Minister of State for Defense
Japan Defense Agency
5-1 Ichigaya, Honmura-cho
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-8801

Dear Minister Saito:

I was pleased to learn of the Government of Japan's approval of funding to effect the purchase, shutdown, and dismantling of the Envirotech incinerator adjacent to Naval Air Facility Atsugi. That decision is a very important step in realizing the objectives of the March 2000 agreement between former Secretary of Defense Cohen and former Minister of State for Defense Kawara. I appreciate your personal efforts and the efforts of other officials that have made this possible. The full implementation of this decision will make an important contribution to the local environment and to protecting the health and safety of the U.S. personnel and Japanese citizens who live and work in the surrounding area.

I hope that this step will also provide us the opportunity to focus more attention on longer-range security issues. Our alliance remains the foundation of peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. Strengthened consultations between the U.S. and Japan on defense strategy, missile defense, transnational threats, and other security concerns can provide the basis for a shared vision to guide our alliance in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Don Rumsfeld", is written below the word "Sincerely,".

